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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. O pposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

VOLUME III, NO. 50 DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1937 Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6888

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AND OF JOHN R. RICE

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HAWKINS HERE SUNDAY

Sunday night, July 4th, Rev. W. E. Hawkins, Jr., of the Radio Revival, widely known Fundamentalist Bible teacher, evangelist and soul winner will speak at Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle, 201 East 10th Street, Dallas. His sermon will be on the subject, "Our Blood Bought Liberty vs. The Black Bread of Unbelief and Common Fear." Services will begin at 8:00 P. M. The public is invited. You will be blessed by the ministry of this man of God.



W. E. HAWKINS, JR.

New Subscription Offer: 25c A Year In Clubs of Four or More

Through the month of July we are making again the extraordinary subscription offer of 35c a year for single subscriptions, either new or renewal, and 25c a year in clubs of four or more. To realize how unusual is this offer you have but to compare it with the subscription price asked for other high class religious magazines and papers. I do not know any weekly religious paper that compares to the Sword of the Lord with a price anything like this low. We believe that the month of July will see thousands of subscriptions pouring in on The Sword of the Lord and that is our earnest and fervent prayer. I hope that to the glory of Christ, The Sword of the Lord will be sent to multitudes who have never read it and that hundreds will be saved as a result, and thousands blessed.

However heavy the burdens of The Sword of the Lord are, we rejoice continually in the blessed privilege of putting out this paper. It is a continual burden of toil. The work of writing copy, getting ads, keeping addresses straight, mailing the paper and paying the bills is far beyond what the average Christian dreams it would be. And I remind you that all of this is a labor of love on the part of several people; that never a penny of wages or salary goes to any worker from The Sword of the Lord. All are supported by free will offerings outside the income of the paper. Even at the regular price of 50c a year, The Sword of the Lord does not pay expenses. It is purely a missionary work. I publish The Sword of the Lord for the same reason that I preach in my church, hold revivals, give out tracts and broadcast radio services. It is our purpose, by all means to save some, as it was Paul's purpose. This is as truly a mission work as that done by any missionary in Africa or China. Mrs. Rice and I could now have had a home nearly paid for with the \$2,400.00 or \$2,500.00 we have put into The Sword of the Lord in the last three years. But we have something much better than a home. We have treasure laid up in Heaven. And the same God who never fails us will help us to get out the paper to the additional thousands who will subscribe, we hope and believe, in this campaign. Now is your time, then. There should be 2,000 people at least who will read this who should get names and addresses of at least four people who ought to read this blessed little gospel messenger and send them to us with a \$1.00 bill so that they can receive The Sword of the Lord for one year. What a little to do for Jesus! And what Heavenly rewards there will be. Many, many ought to subscribe for ten or twenty-five or a hundred.

Somebody subscribed for The Sword of the Lord for a few weeks for a sixteen year old boy near Tompkinsville, Kentucky. He began to read it at once. He wrote us some cards and letters and conviction deepened upon his soul. At the end of two months, as he read the sermon, "And Sitting Down" (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Abiding In Christ

Fourfold Conditions of Fruit Bearing

With infinite grace the Saviour taught His disciples the night He was betrayed. He gave them the Last Supper that would picture His death until He should come again. He told them of the Father's house of many mansions that He was going to prepare and that He would come again and receive His saints unto Himself. He gave the marvelous teaching of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who would abide with and in the disciples forever. He prayed for the disciples in the 17th chapter of John. He gave blessed promises concerning prayer in His name. And in John the 15th chapter He gave us the remarkable discourse about how Christians should bear fruit—that He had ordained them and sent them forth for this purpose of bearing fruit. He said that the Father would be glorified in Christians as they bore much fruit and that fruit bearing was by abiding in Him.

The Christian will do well to read prayerfully here the first seventeen verses of John, chapter 15.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

"2. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

"3. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

"4. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"5. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

"6. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

"7. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

"8. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples.

"9. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

"10. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

"11. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

"12. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

"13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

"14. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

"15. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

"16. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

"17. These things I command you, that ye love one another."

Verse 5 pretty well sums up the entire passage. Christ is the vine, we are the branches. If we abide in Him and He in us, we bring forth much fruit; without Him we can do nothing.

Here is a beautifully intimate picture of the relation of Christ and His saints. We are really a part of Christ. There is a living connection between Christ and every child of God and the life of Christ flows through the Christian just as sap comes from the vine into the branch. Jesus teaches the same thing when He says that we (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

New Subscription Offer: 25c A Year In Cubs of Four or More

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

They Watched Him There," this sixteen year old boy was broken to pieces, called on Christ for salvation and was happily saved. He wrote us, "I was never so happy in my life. He forgave me at 1:15 P. M., June 8, 1937." He also told us that for the two months he had been wanting to be saved, evidently ever since he began to read the messages in this paper. I do not remember now who sent in the name of this boy but I know they will be among those who will "shine as the brightness of the firmament forever," according to the Word of God! And many, many others have been saved thus through reading *The Sword of the Lord*.

Here in the lobby of this hotel where my daughter and I have an apartment during the revival, is a literature stand maintained by Christian Scientist so-called, and always there are fresh copies of their various publications for strangers and travelers to read. It is so all over the country. Yesterday I was in conversation with two Seventh Day Adventist preachers. They are sent out by their denomination by tithes and they spread their literature everywhere. In the hotel room I found last week a foolish and unscriptural book of that false religion propagated by Judge Rutherford and another book on Unity. And three times last Sunday on the local radio there were recorded broadcasts from Judge Rutherford. False religions sent out their message in millions of tracts, papers and books and over the radio. Will you not see that *The Sword of the Lord* with its gospel messages, its

Bible teaching and devotional articles to save sinners and strengthen Christians, is put into the hands of thousands of people, to carry on its blessed ministry? I beg you to join in this campaign. How cheap it would be if you win a soul with 25c by sending the paper for one year in a club of four or more! I will add whatever is necessary to your 25c, as others are led by the Lord to provide it, and together, we will send out the gospel so that your friends, relatives and neighbors may be saved.

Missionaries are asking for *The Sword of the Lord*. Why not send it to one hundred of them as a missionary gift? How it would bless the teaching and preaching of many missionaries! How it would freshen the ministry of many preachers! How it would strengthen many a young Christian in the time of temptation! The denominations get out their literature to build denominational machinery and the denominational program. Much of it is good but none of it is as good as the gospel.

Take advantage of this offer and pay your own subscription a year or two or four ahead. Send the paper to your mother or your minister or relatives or to unsaved friends. The larger the subscription list we can have for *The Sword of the Lord*, the nearer we can come to paying expenses because costs decrease when volume increases. For instance, when we send out 7,000 copies of *The Sword of the Lord*, it costs us a certain amount. But if we send 14,000 copies the cost for labor is nearly the same and the cost for printing the second 7,000 is much less than the cost for printing the first 7,000. Then as we pass 10,000 circulation, national advertising will increase and help to pay the cost of printing. With larger circulation we will sell more books and Bibles and any profit will be used to help pay the printing bill. Best of all, the more subscribers we have the more people will be blessed and more will be saved.

Do it today. Write down the names and correct addresses of at least four and enclose 25c for each name, \$1.00 for four. Each one will get *The Sword of the Lord* for one year and you will have treasure in Heaven.

Remember that \$10.00 pays for forty subscriptions and \$25.00 will pay for one hundred subscriptions at this rate. Pray with us that thousands will be blessed by the subscriptions to *The Sword of the Lord* in this campaign. Send what you can now and get others later

THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, Editor, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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ABIDING IN CHRIST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

are members of His body. There is as much connection between Christ and His saints as there is between head and hands. We are the members of Christ.

The whole object of the vine is to bear fruit. Grapevines are kept for the grapes. They are created by the Maker of Heaven and earth to take the mineral elements of the soil in solution, carry them up into the plant and by the combination of sunshine and air and sap to produce grapes. Roots, vine, branches all have one aim. The aim of the husbandman is to have fruit from the vine and branches.

So all the dealings of Christ with the human race were intended to result in souls being saved. To this end the Bible was written. To this end Christ came into the world, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and rose from the dead and now intercedes for us at the right hand of God as our High Priest—all this for the one purpose of saving sinners. Souls saved are the fruit that God expects of His Vine, Jesus Christ, and of us Christians since we are the branches. "The fruit of a Christian is another Christian."

We are partners with the Lord Jesus in soul winning. Jesus told Peter, James, and John, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Every Christian who really follows Christ will be fishing for men.

Christian, God wants you to bear fruit! Your happiness as a Christian will depend upon your victory over temptation, your enjoyment of the Holy Spirit's presence and will depend on your bearing fruit. And here the Saviour tells us of the conditions under which you can bear fruit.

The Word Essential In Fruit Bearing

The first condition of a fruitful Christian life is that the Word of God have its effect upon a Christian. We know, of course, that the soul winner needs to use the Scripture to be effective in dealing with lost souls. "The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). Psalm 126:6 says that, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, BEARING PRECIOUS SEED, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." You must use the Word of God on sinners, but that is not what this Scripture here means. If you are to bear fruit you must use the Scripture on yourself! In verse 3 of the passage above, Jesus said, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." And that is just after verse 2 which says, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Purging, cleansing, is essential if the branch is to bear fruit and this purging is done by the Word of God.

Every kind of fruit has its natural enemies, part of the curse put upon the world through sin. Various kinds of scale, rust, borers and insects infest every fruit tree and grapevine. The vine must be sprayed and purged and cleansed and pruned if it is to bear fruit. This is what the Word of God does for a Christian. You remember that the Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). Again Psalm 119 asks the question, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" And the divinely inspired answer is given; "by taking heed thereto according to thy word." It is only as a Christian knows the Bible that he is able to overcome sin and live a victorious life. Sin separates us from communion and fellowship with Christ, and the only way to a victorious life, overcoming sin, is by daily use of the Word of God. The Bible points out sin we had never seen, is used of the Spirit to convict us of sin, shows us the remedy for sin, points us to Jesus, leads us to prayer and trust. To the surrendered and anointed soul winner the Saviour says, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." Christians who do not know the

Bible are unsteady Christians, Christians who stumble along in the dark, constantly falling into sin.

One of the most blessed promises in the Bible is in verse 7, "If ye abide in me, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." The soul winner must be able to pray. There is no hope of victory over Satan in the Christian work except as we can make connection with God in prayer, and successful prayer, answered prayer depends on having the Words of Christ abiding in us. In other words, by memorizing the Scripture, meditating upon it, studying it, absorbing it, getting the true meaning of the Scripture, we learn the mind of God and the will of God and are able to ask according to His will so that our prayers will be answered. How important it is for the soul winner to know the Scriptures and not only to know the Scriptures, but to have the Scriptures abiding in His heart. Not only must he have the Scriptures, the Scriptures must have him.

The Christian needs pruning just as the grapevine does, and the sharp knife of the Scripture does the work. The Christian needs to be guided just as the grapevine is led upon a trellis or pole. The Word of God is the strong support and guide for the Christian.

And besides, how are we to abide in Christ without abiding in His Word? In the Bible we have all His commands, all His desires expressed. In the Bible we have the entire story about how Jesus lived and died, how He overcame Satan and lived a holy life as our pattern. The will and character of Christ are revealed in the Bible, and so daily feeding on the Word of God, judging self by the Word, claiming the promises of God, following the instructions of the Word, is necessary if we are to abide in Christ and bear fruit.

Consciously Abiding In Christ

Everything good for the Christian is involved in abiding in Christ. This is the central thought of the entire passage in John 15: 1-17. In some sense Bible reading and prayer are a part of abiding in Christ, but besides these, there should be a very deliberate effort to be conscious of the continual presence of Christ. To read the Bible is not enough. We should read it in the presence of Christ, with Him pointing out the meaning and speaking to our hearts as we read. To pray is not enough. We should be conscious of the very near presence of Christ as we pray, to talk to Him personally and have Him speak to us just as definitely as we speak to Him. We should practice the presence of Christ.

A branch may be grafted into a vine but if it is to bear fruit it must grow into the vine and have a constant supply of sap, becoming a part of the vine. If a branch is grafted into a vine today and then tomorrow pulled apart and then later on grafted back in, it cannot bear fruit. The branch that is green and fresh today but withered tomorrow cannot bear fruit. Just occasionally to be in touch with Christ will not do for the soul winner. He must learn to "abide in Christ."

Oh, how we need to be conscious of the presence of Christ day and night! How we need to watch so that we never grieve the Spirit by sin, never quench Him by rebellion.

This is what the Scripture means when we are commanded to "pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17). How can one pray without ceasing? Sometimes he must concentrate his entire time on the work he is doing. Sometimes he must eat and sleep. Is it really possible to pray without ceasing?

Yes, it is! A mother can watch after her baby without ceasing. She goes about her housework and suddenly, when no one else heard a sound, she says, "My baby!" and runs to the little one and then others notice that the child is fretting. The mother's ear has been tuned to hear the cry of the child no matter how absorbed she must be in something else.

Sometimes a mother sleeps and yet the subconscious mind gives constant attention to the little one,

MRS. RIDGWAY'S CORNER

The Sword of the Lord Mid-Summer, Half-Price Subscription Campaign begins July 1st. One year ago we made a special half-price offer that by far exceeded any subscription campaign in the history of the paper. Hundreds of readers sent the paper to four or more of their friends. I suggest right now while you can, send four one-year subscriptions for \$1.00, that you renew the ones you sent this time last year and make sure that your friends read the paper another year.

Many have written our office asking for the name of the person who paid for their subscription; that they wanted to thank them for the gift.

We expect this campaign to exceed last year's by at least two or three thousand, and our expectations are based on the loyal support of our friends. One friend in Mississippi paid for over 100 subscriptions last year and has already written us that she would renew every subscription. She is doing real missionary work with her money. This is one of the best ways to get the gospel to the people with so little expense. Send your list at once.

and the faintest stir or sound will awaken the mother. When the conscious mind lays down its burden in rest, yet the subconscious mind is still aware and watching, listening. So we may be continually conscious of the presence of Christ.

Many a time on the coldest winter nights I feel a strange urge to see after my little girls, to make sure they are covered and comfortable and safe. That urge wakes me out of the soundest sleep when I had not planned to wake and when there was not a sound or movement to arouse me as far as I knew. Part of the personality does not sleep but can be held in attention on some one matter.

I know that sometimes in the night I reach my hand out to the pillow beside me and touch my wife's face or shoulder. I am aware that she is there even though I am not awake. This awareness of the subconscious mind that can center itself on some object or purpose even when we sleep, ought to be centered on Christ so that literally we could always, day and night, abide in Christ and be conscious of His presence, eager to please Him, to have His favor and do His will!

Many people can wake without an alarm clock at approximately whatever time they wish to awake. I have known several who never relied upon an alarm clock but would simply definitely set their mind to awaken at a certain time and never miss it far. For months, while in Baylor University, I awoke each morning at 5:20 to begin my heavy duties. Most of that time I got not over six hours of sleep a night and oftentimes I was desperately sleepy. If I got a chance any time during the day, I could go to sleep almost instantly, but my will to arise at a certain time pulled me from the depths of slumber and sent me about my work.

Oh, how I would to God I could have such a continual will to please Christ and know His presence and blessing and power! It is a wonderful thing what love will do. When Mrs. Rice and I were sweethearts in college I was conscious of her every moment we were in recitations together, no matter whether I was reciting or concentrating on the lesson. When I entered an oratorical contest and spoke rapidly and from memory a prepared address, yet I was continually conscious that she heard me. I knew where she sat and knew she was interested in what I did. When I played college football, which is a most strenuous game, exacting the most vigorous concentration of mind, will and muscle, yet again and again I saw from the corner of my eye the flash of an orange colored blouse and knew she was there. It is not

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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ABIDING IN CHRIST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

hard to abide in the consciousness of those we love.

I am proving to you, dear reader, that you can abide in Christ. You can be conscious of Him whether you work or play or eat or sleep. You can really "pray without ceasing." You can "rejoice in the Lord *always*." You can "ABIDE under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psa. 91:1). "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding" can really "KEEP your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Christians may have the joy and safety and certainty and power of abiding in Christ.

Sometimes I have gone to sleep with Christ very, very near and in the night I would wake praying, or I could hear the refrain of some sweet Christian song that had blessed my heart. How happy is the Christian whose dreams are of God and Heaven! The happiest dreams I have ever had have been when I dreamed of great revivals and hundreds saved, dreamed I was preaching with the power of God upon me.

All of the six women and girls who are my assistants in the blessed work of getting out the gospel, are devout Christians, prayerful, useful, Bible studying, soul winning Christians. One of them dreamed one night of the coming of the Saviour. When she told all of us about it the next day we rejoiced together with tears. How real it seemed when she told of seeing Jesus and the glory of the resurrection and of meeting all the saints of God and of the old sinful nature and mortal body left behind! For days she seemed transformed and could think of little else. I have thought many times of it since and wondered what glories there would be for Christians if we would really abide in Christ so that our thoughts and emotions were absorbed in Him! How sweet would be the rest, how pleasant the dreams, how joyful the waking of those who abide in Christ! How easy would be our burdens if always we knew and felt the presence of our Burden-Bearer standing by our side. What sweet comfort in our sorrows if we were always conscious of His comfort and that His will was being done! How safe would be our refuge in every trial, temptation, and persecution if we always felt the safety of His arms and the protection of His power! May God help us to abide in Christ.

And such abiding is, my Christian friend, essential to the fullest fruit bearing. We need to "take time to be holy." We need to learn to wait on God. We need to be so close to the Saviour that we can be absorbed in His will. Then we

can receive His power. I do not have any idea that the branches of a grapevine have any sense of strain and toil. Rather, they are passive and the sap flows through them. God works the miracle of grapes through the combination of sap and sunshine and air. So when we toil and fret and worry about our work, trying to bear fruit, our trouble is that we are not abiding in Christ as much as we ought. Fullness of power comes with fullness of association with Christ and identification with Him.

Asking: Definite Prayer Has A Place in Fruit-Bearing

John 15:7 says,

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

One who abides in Christ and feeds on the Word of God, is then ready to pray, to pray for results, to pray for power. Some people have an idea that simply to live an upright Christian life will result in people being saved, but they are mistaken. You may pay your debts, control your tongue, give of your money, and be kind to your neighbor: I suppose the Pharisees did all that and yet they never won a soul. The fruit does not proceed from the branches alone, it comes from the vine. So if souls are to be won, we must seek them from God. It is God who convicts sinners. God alone can change wicked hearts. Only God can make children of Hell into children of God. The most important part of the ministry is prayer. The apostles said, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Notice that now we are not speaking of prayer as meditation or as feeling after God but prayer as definite asking, objective praying. Praise and thanksgiving have their place in prayer but here the Lord says, "Ask what ye will." I am sure I have preached many sermons that were not as fruitful as they ought to have been because I did not ask God for particular and definite results. In prayer God will give you wisdom about where to go, who to see, what to say. Prayer gets results for one who abides in Christ.

If you abide in Christ then you will want the will of God done. With your will surrendered to the will of God, you will be anxious to please Him. You will earnestly strive not to grieve the Spirit nor quench His leading. You will want the will of God done. And if His Words abide in you you will KNOW the will of God and can pray according to His will. Verse 15 then means that abiding in Christ and with His Word abiding in you, you will be anxious to please God and will know how to please God so that you will ask only the things that can honor Him and God can give you whatsoever you desire. That is kin to the Scripture in I John 3:21 and 22 which says, "Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." One who abides in Christ and is saturated in mind and heart with the Word of God, can ask whatsoever he will and shall receive it.

Again, in Psalm 37:4 we are told, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." That verse means almost exactly the same, I think, as John 15:7. Delighting in the presence and will of God and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Be still, sad soul! lift thou no passionate cry,
But spread the desert of thy being bare
To the full searching of the All-seeing eye;
Wait! and through dark misgiving, black despair,
God will come down in pity, and fill the dry
Dead place with light, and life, and vernal air.

— J. C. Shairp.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God." (Eph. 5:20.)

TWO CLASSES!

Society has been divided into three classes; upper, middle and lower; but God divides all mankind into two — apart from social standing — and these two are the *saved* and the *lost*. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that *perish* foolishness; but to us, *which are saved*, it is the *power of God*" (I Cor. 1:18). "But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that *are lost*." (II Cor. 4:3).

The Saved

The *saved* are even now justified before God. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more than; being *justified by His blood*, we shall be *saved from wrath through Him*." (Rom. 5:8, 9). And again, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Eph. 1:6), and are called "The sons of God" (I John 3:1).

The Lost

The *lost* are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). Again, *He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already*, because he *hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God*" (John 3:18). Then we find that, "Wherein in times past, ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). And, "At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, *having no hope and without God in the world*" (Eph. 2:12).

No Third Class

There is no third class to be found in the Scriptures. The Lord Jesus Christ, when speaking to Nicodemus, divided the human family thus and said: "*He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already*" (John 3:18).

John the Baptist made the same fact very clear when he said: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire: whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat (believers) into the garner; but He will burn the chaff (unbelievers) with unquenchable fire" (Matt. 3:11, 12). And again we find the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; but he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him*" (John 3:36).

In Which Class Are You?

The Spirit of God would make it plain to everyone that there is no neutral ground to stand upon — no half-saved or half-lost sinners. The enemy of God, on the other hand, paralyzes the truth by asserting, "no one can be sure of salvation." Whom will you believe, God or Satan?

God's Word says: "*We know that we have passed from death unto life*" (I John 3:14).

Satan says: "One cannot be sure."

God says: "These things have I written . . . that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (John 5:13).

Satan says: "It is presumption to say so. No one can know."

The Word of God says: "If our Gospel be hid, it is *hid from them that are lost*" (II Cor. 4:3).

Satan says: "No one will be lost; all are being saved."

Paul, writing by the direction of the Holy Spirit, says, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*" (Eph. 2:8). Peter, by the same Spirit, writes, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever*" (I Peter 1:23). John, by the same authority, says, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you *for His Name's sake*" (I John 2:12).

The enemy, who won man's soul in the Garden of Eden through ly-

Rev. P. T. Stanford and Tabernacle Baptist Church, Ponca City, Okla.

Monday night, June 21st, the editor began a revival meeting in Ponca City, Oklahoma, with the Tabernacle Baptist Church and Pastor, P. T. Stanford. They have a beautiful set-up for the revival, seats for 1,000, we suppose, a choir with elevated tiers of seats, a public address system and daily radio services. This is written Monday after the meeting has continued one week. We have given two invitations, with several conversions each time. The interest in the revival is rapidly increasing. Yesterday delegations were here from Covington, Oklahoma, sixty miles away, and every night groups from various near-by towns in Oklahoma and Southern Kansas are present. I expect to remain here until July 9th, God willing, and it is our earnest prayer that God will give a really great revival. Already our hearts are happy at the interest among Christians, restored fellowship, souls saved, Christians inspired and the church strengthened.

ing, carries on his work in the same way today. The Lord Jesus Christ said: "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there was no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

To effect your salvation, the Holy Spirit strives to reveal to you your *lost* condition, to the end that you may receive the Lord Jesus Christ, who came "To seek and to save that which was *lost*" (Luke 19:10). To effect your everlasting damnation Satan persuades you that: "No one can be sure of salvation until the Judgment Day;" and, "that you will have as good a chance as any one."

Listen no longer to the Destroyer! Be warned! Without Christ you are *lost*! Judas went out to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, heal diseases, and cast out demons; but was never saved, for our Lord said: "Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil" (John 6:70).

Only One Way

God loves you with unfathomable love and longs for your immediate salvation. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). And our Lord Jesus Christ gives us the blessed assurance that: "*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me*" (John 14:6). How easy it has been made for sinful men to come to the Father and have the blessed knowledge that they are *saved* from condemnation. Simply believe on Him who said: "He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

We, then, as workers together with Him, beseech you that you receive not the grace of God in vain. "For He saith, I have heard you in a time accepted and in a day of salvation have I succoured thee; *behold, now is the accepted time, behold, NOW, is the day of Salvation*" (II Cor. 6:1, 2).

"O troubled soul, beneath the rod, Thy Father speaks, be still, be still; Learn to be silent unto God, And let Him mould thee to His will."

"O praying soul, be still, be still, He cannot break His plighted Word; Sink down into His blessed will, And wait in patience on the Lord."

"O waiting soul, be still, be strong, And though He tarry, trust and wait; Doubt not, He will not wait too long, Fear not, He will not come too late."

"And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you . . . blessed are all they that wait for him." (Isa. 30:18.)

One of the happiest features of the revival is the fellowship with Pastor P. T. Stanford and his family. Brother Stanford is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and a man of wide and blessed experience in the ministry. For years he was a very successful Southern Methodist pastor. However, he was a vigorous Fundamentalist. He put out the modernistic Sunday School literature in a big Methodist church and began regularly to teach the Bible itself. His vigorous stand for the faith made him a marked man. Eventually he withdrew from the Methodist ministry and in the same city organized an Independent Fundamentalist Church. As God clearly led him to a further perception of the truth concerning the independence of a local church, the security of a believer, and believer's baptism by immersion, he became an independent Fundamentalist Baptist. He was called from the thriving work in Brownwood, Texas, to be associate pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fort Worth where he was used of God in an unusual way in soul winning.

Here in Ponca City, Bro. Stanford, assisted by his wife and other helpers, has maintained a daily radio broadcast for thirty minutes a day for more than 500 consecutive days, missing only two broadcasts. In Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri, hundreds of thousands of people have been blessed by his ministry. He may be heard on WBBZ at 5:00 P.M. daily in this area, 1200 kilo. He has given out tens of thousands of tracts and hundreds of Bibles. He uses a public address system with his car and carries the gospel to all the near-by country. He has around him a vigorous group of young preachers whom he has led in the soul winning work and they maintain services in school houses, jails, and wherever opportunity arises.

It is an unusual pleasure to have fellowship with Brother Stanford. He is a thorough, courteous Christian gentleman, a man of culture and Christian graces. He is a man with deepest convictions for which he would die and for which he has suffered much, a self-sacrificing and heroic minister of the gospel, yet he is not the gun-toting, law-suiting type of Fundamentalist. He does not use the method of personal slander to get crowds as some have in the Southwest. He is easy to work with, longsuffering, quick to forgive, tender, affectionate and prayerful. He is not easily offended. He is quick to be reconciled. A delegation of Baptist pastors recently courteously invited him to join them in the Baptist Association and Convention. Though his conscientious scruples would not allow him to support the denominational program nor to join in with some who are modernistic, yet it is pleasing that he is admired and respected by the outside world and by his preacher brethren. He is bold but tender, determined and yet easy to be entreated. What happy days we have had together this week! I have looked over his big library and wish I had time to really enjoy it.

Brother Stanford is a real soul winner. He was called to the hospital Sunday morning and with other workers, had the joy of seeing three saved. He is alert and leads his people in soul winning work in the revival in a way that is beginning to be very fruitful. It has been a joy to know Brother Stanford's family, too. Mrs. Stanford and the children are all devout Christians, personal soul winners, Spiritually-minded and earnest. Miss Catherine Ann, seventeen, conducts the radio service for children on Saturday and is pianist at the church. The other children, Mary Sue, Porter and Charles, are a credit to this man of God.

These words are written, not for Brother Stanford's sake, nor for the sake of his fine church at Ponca City, but because we feel that such a fine example of education and culture, combined with Christian grace and unceasing labor for the Lord, ought to be a great blessing among Fundamentalists in the Southwest.

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We should be glad to have for review purposes in the *Western Recorder*, your recent book, "The Coming Kingdom of Christ." We want to make available especially for the large number of ministers on our subscription list contact with the better books that deal with our Lord's Second Coming.

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My Dear John:

I read your book, "The Coming Kingdom of Christ" today. You have brought to bear upon the subjects in hand a greater quantity of understandable Scriptures than I have found in any such volume of recent years. I think your book should have its proper place with the other great books on this blessed subject, so dear to all our hearts. You handle the most perplexing matters in a pleasingly easy way. Your simplicity, sincerity, and unargumentative directness are to be commended. I read your book through in one sitting. It held me, and I was late for lunch, but I really got a meal I shall never forget. God's blessings upon you, John. I will be more careful to read your other writings of this nature hereafter, if I am fortunate enough to secure them. I wish some means could be devised whereby you would be able financially to present this book to every Baptist preacher in Texas. It would be a great contribution to the advancement of this much needed truth. If you do not already know it, I am in a position to tell you that the pre-millennial view is gaining favor rapidly with all our Convention pastors, especially in Dallas County. Every opportunity I have, I give forth testimony, and others are more outspoken of late.

I hope to see you soon, and in all, have more fellowship with you in the future. Thanks for the book, and may our Heavenly Father bless you in every needful way, is my prayer.

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ABIDING IN CHRIST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

delighting in His Word makes it so that God will gladly give you the desires of your heart. Your desires will fit into God's desires and it will be perfectly safe for God to give you carte blanche. How free is the Christian who is filled with the Spirit! How rich our inheritance when we abide in Christ! When limitless powers are ours to bear fruit if we truly abide in Christ, our Branch. It is not surprising that in the same passage, verse 5, Jesus says, "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth MUCH FRUIT," and verse 2 says, "Every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it, that it may bring forth MORE FRUIT," and verse 8 says, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear MUCH FRUIT." If you abide in Christ you will have a right to make big requests and get them answered. God ordained us to bring forth fruit and therein is He glorified. Therefore, dear Christian, abide in Christ and ask anything you want in the way of fruit bearing.

Love's Relation to Fruit Bearing

How fitting that the dear Saviour here would give an extended passage on love. In verse 9 to 17 love is mentioned nine times and that right in the midst of the discussion on fruit bearing. Fruit is possible because the Father loves the Vine and the Vine loves the branches and we are all to join in this love. Soul winning is a work of love. There is no hope of the soul winner being properly rewarded in this world. "He that winneth souls is wise," it is true, because "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." You will never win souls for money or hope of earthly reward. "God so LOVED the world that he gave" Jesus. Love was the Father's motive. "Christ commended his LOVE toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly." Love was the motive of the Saviour. So love must be the motive of the Christian who would win souls. Otherwise, we cannot go weeping. Otherwise, we cannot "compel them to come in."

The relation of one soul winner to another is very sweet. Those who have worked together, prayed together and rejoiced together in the salvation of sinners have a fellowship that is partly of Heaven. Indeed angels themselves out of the very love of sinners and love of God, rejoice more over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine just persons that need no repentance. What perfect love and cooperation between God and Christ and the Holy Spirit and the angels in winning souls! Jesus could say, "I and my father are one." Here He says, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." The love of the Father and of Christ for sinners unite in their love for each other. When you and Christ can unite in the work of saving sinners, you will love Him better. And then if you join other Christians in the same holy task of abiding in Christ, you will love other Christians better.

I Corinthians tells us that love is the greatest thing in the world, greater than faith, greater than the gifts of the spirit, greater than knowledge, greater than sacrifice. You would certainly not expect love to be left out in fruit-bearing. Love is the mark of a Christian for Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). The very nature of God is essentially love—"God is love." We are told that, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:7, 8).

It is evident on the face of it that abiding in Christ would involve brotherly love if Christ so loves my brother and I abide in Christ, how can I avoid loving my brother like Christ does? If God is love and I so abide in Christ and His Word abides in me, as to make me like God, then I, too, will be moved by love. If the answers to our prayers depend upon our

asking according to His will and upon keeping His commandments, then love must be essential, because, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment" (I John 3:22, 23).

Brotherly love then is necessary to fruit-bearing. Love is both cause and result of fruit-bearing. Love goes before and accompanies and follows abiding in Christ. No one will be received into that inner circle with Christ who does not love others in the same circle, and other branches of the same vine. If the branch is joined into the vine and becomes one with the vine, then it becomes one with the other branches. A unity with Christ means a unity with other believers too, and fellowship in fruit-bearing makes for further fellowship. The branch that bears fruit is purged that it may bear more fruit. So the Christian who wins souls will so learn to love other Christians that he may win more souls. Brotherly love is one of the essentials of fruit-bearing. In fact it is the great characteristic of a Christian who is close to Christ.

Did you ever know of a young married couple who found it hard to get along, hard to adjust themselves to each other, as each one wanted his own way and divorce seemed likely? And then did you ever know of such a couple when God sent a little, tiny baby into the home so that their hearts were knit together in unselfish love of a third person? The husband and wife have much more chance of happiness and perfect unity of heart and life when they are compelled to think and plan together for children. When a man begins to call his wife "Mother" and she calls him "Dad," it is a good sign. Little baby fingers take hold like grips of steel and bind together hearts that would otherwise not be able to stand the strain of selfishness and self-will.

Just so, we Christians are such frail and worldly mortals, falling so far short of what we ought to be there are natural tendencies to disagree. Unless we are absorbed in the love of Christ and melted to His will united in the winning of other souls, we are likely to sin. But the branch who is in perfect touch with the vine will love the other branches. Brotherly love is one of the essentials of fruit-bearing.

I am reminded that D. L. Moody, R. A. Torrey, and other great evangelists were essentially un denominational in their attitude. They loved all Christians. Moody said, "If I knew that I had one drop of sectarian blood in my veins, I would have a doctor take it out." That did not mean that those great men of God lacked convictions. It meant that they loved all Christians and would not be bound by arbitrary denominational lines. Moody would never go to a city for a revival unless the Protestant ministers of the city were united in agreement about the revival. The greatest revivals that Billy Sunday ever had were on the same basis.

Fundamentalists do well when they insist on certain great essentials of truth such as the deity of Christ, His blood atonement, Salvation by grace through faith, Hell, Heaven, and the second coming of Christ. But fundamentalists do wrong when they are impatient and hateful to their brethren of like faith, and when they split hairs and divide congregations over lesser matters not one-thousandth part as important as brotherly love! One of the greater fundamentals of the faith is brotherly love. One is to be known as a Christian not because he is sound in doctrine but because he loves other Christians. Remember, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Brotherly love looms much larger in the Bible than it does in other Christian literature. It is much more important in the mind of God than it is in the mind of preachers. Let every Christian be true to great convictions in truth, but I beg you my Christian brethren do not be

like the Pharisee who tithed mint, anise, and cummin and neglected the weightier matters of mercy, judgment. Every Christian who is really close to God can say, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love!" It would be well for every Christian to memorize the 13th chapter of First Corinthians and earnestly seek the grace of God to be able to love as he should.

If you long to be used of God and win souls, then I beg you, let love have a greater place in your life. You may seek to be a great preacher when God is more concerned that you be a great lover! Though you may understand all mysteries and speak with tongues of men and angels and have faith to remove mountains and give your body to be burned, there is no real Christian character and no reward in Heaven except as the love of God is shed abroad in your heart until you love others. Abiding in Christ means love, oceans of love, love like Christ's for us.

The Joy of Fruit Bearing

And now, dear reader, let me call your attention to the soul winner's joy. As Christ rejoiced in the sinner's salvation, and as the angels rejoice in Heaven, so you can rejoice, too. This entire passage of Scripture is given to make you happy, for verse eleven says, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). Fullness of joy is found in abiding in Christ, in doing His will, and seeing the precious fruit which results.

The fruit-bearer's joy comes from communion with Christ, your lovely Saviour. What a joy to know Him better! Remember that Paul said, "—I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." (Phil. 3:8). Christ Himself is joy enough for every Christian, His beauty, richness, and fellowship, are enough to repay the loss of all things on earth.

The fruit-bearer's joy is the joy of answered prayer. Elsewhere (John 16:24) Jesus told the disciples, "—Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Fullness of joy comes when God answers prayer. Answered prayer proves there is a God, proves the Bible is true, proves that God loves us. Christians, ask and be happy!

The fruit-bearer's joy is the joy of fellowship with other "branches." I have known Christians who had known each other not one hour, put their arms around each other and rejoice in the sweetest fellowship over some sinner being saved.

The sweetest joy of all, I think, when one abides in Christ and lives in His will is to know that Christ Himself rejoices in sinners being saved. I should have more joy, far more, and do have, I think, in the thought that sinners in Heaven will glorify Christ, than in the thought that I will have reward in Heaven for winning them.

Dear Christian, are you abiding in Christ and bearing fruit? If you are, ask what you will and bear much fruit. If you are not, then today set out to please Christ, abide in Him and bear much fruit so that your Father in Heaven will be glorified and that your own joy may be full!

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